

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast

### April 5<sup>th</sup> 2013

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

#### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)



CBC

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

premier (leader of a province)	politician (person in politics)	conservative (traditional)
survived by (family members alive after you die)	lung (organ to breathe)	career (job choice)
deficit (situation: to spend more than earn money)	mayor (leader of a city)	surplus (extra)

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

#### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**dementia** – a disease older people get; they lose their memories and become confused

**pneumonia** – a disease that infects the lungs caused by a bacteria

**stay the course** – to continue your actions even if you do not have much support

1. The current \_\_\_\_\_ of Alberta is Alison Redford. The current \_\_\_\_\_ of Edmonton is Stephen Mandel. Both of these people are \_\_\_\_\_ who work for the government and represent the people.
2. Alberta has had a \_\_\_\_\_ government for over 40 years, since the PC party took control in the 1970's.
3. When the government has a \_\_\_\_\_ they often stop funding many programs to reduce their debt; but when there is a \_\_\_\_\_ they try to fund new programs.
4. Many university students are still deciding what \_\_\_\_\_ they would like to have in the future.
5. My grandmother died last month. She is \_\_\_\_\_ her husband, 5 children and 12 grandchildren.
6. People who smoke could suffer from \_\_\_\_\_ cancer if they do not quit.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What will Ralph Klein be remembered for?
2. When was Ralph Klein the premier of Alberta?
3. When and how did Ralph Klein die?
4. Before he was premier what jobs did Klein have?
5. How did Klein get Alberta out of debt when he first became premier?
6. How did the province become rich during Klein's leadership?
7. Who is Ralph Klein survived by?

**Discussion Question:** Ralph Klein wanted to represent the average Albertan, not just the rich and powerful. Do you think people in politics should try hard to communicate with the regular people? Why?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

The words below are from the second news story. Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) impact	a) bosses leaders directors
	2) recent	b) slowed late overdue
	3) announced	c) money funds dollars
	4) grant	d) effect result outcome
	5) schedule	e) just out latest new
	6) delayed	f) said stated told
	7) executives	g) timetable plan calendar

**Extra definition to help you understand the reading:**

**prospective student**– a person who is expected to be a student in the future

**admission** – agreement to let someone enter somewhere, like a club or university

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True - False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ In March the Government said there would be a 7.3% cut in money given to universities and colleges.
2. \_\_\_\_ The fall schedule has been made available.
3. \_\_\_\_ Programs cuts may happen at Mount Royal University.
4. \_\_\_\_ No students are getting early admission letters.
5. \_\_\_\_ The Minister of Advanced Education is planning to meet with Mount Royal University bosses this week.

### Discussion Question:

How important is university and college education? Should funding the post secondary system be a priority or should students have to pay more?

### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. take part	a) to be kicked out of your rented apartment/house
	2. plant	b) to take something without paying
	3. groceries	c) a factory that processes raw materials
	4. evicted	d) participate
	5. attack	e) to destroy something or some place
	6. stealing	f) factory
	7. to be caught	g) not the rich, not the poor but the average people
	8. trashing	h) an organized violent fight
	9. middle class	i) food or other products sold in a supermarket
	10. refinery	j) when someone (the police) see you doing something wrong

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Two Canadians took part in _____.	a) an attack in Edmonton. b) the gas plant attack in Algeria.
2. The two boys, Ali Medlej and Xristos Katsiroubas, were teenagers when _____.	a) they attacked the gas plant. b) they moved to Edmonton in 2007.
3. In Edmonton the boys could not keep _____ and were caught _____.	a) jobs / stealing groceries b) food / trying to feed themselves
4. The boys were evicted from their condo because _____.	a) they destroyed it b) they had no jobs to pay rent
5. Ali Medlej and Xristos Katsiroubas came from a _____ in London, Ontario.	a) middle-class neighbourhood b) friendly neighbourhood
6. The attack on the Algerian gas plant left _____ refinery workers dead.	a) about 13 b) more than 30

### Discussion Question

How can we make sure our children do not get involved in illegal activity? What are some things we can do so our children don't take part in harmful or risky activities?

## Language Focus

### Articles

Articles are some of the most often used words in the English language. Articles are used before nouns in sentences.

Learning when to use the indefinite, the definite article or no article at all is an important step to improving your English.

**Indefinite articles** – ‘a’ and ‘an’ (use ‘a’ before nouns starting with a consonant sound and ‘an’ before nouns starting with a vowel sound)

- Are used to refer to something not known by the person you are communicating with.
- Are used to introduce a new thing/idea/person not mentioned before
- Can only be used with singular, countable nouns

**Definite article** – ‘the’

- *The* is used before nouns that are definitely known to the listener/reader
- *The* is used if you have already mentioned something
- *The* is used to before geographic locations
- *The* is used before nouns we know there is only 1 of (the world)
- *The* is used when referring to a specific thing or situation

**No article**

- We do not need an article when we talk about something in general
- Before plural or non-count nouns when we talk about them generally
- When other determiners (this, that, many, possessive pronouns) are used
- When we talk about sports
- Before proper names
- Before pronouns

Let's look at how articles are used in our stories this week. Think about why each article is used. Look at nouns in the sentences that do not have an article. Do you know why?

“Ralph Klein is being remembered as **a** politician who led **a** conservative revolution in Canada...”

“Before his time as premier, Klein was **the** mayor of Calgary from 1980 to 89.”

“When he became premier in 1992, the province was deeply in **debt**. Klein began cutting jobs to bring **the** debt under control.”

“**The** two Canadians who took part in that gas plant attack in Algeria spent time in **Edmonton**. Ali Medlej was 18 and Xristos Katsiroubas was 16 years old when they moved to **the** city in 2007.”

“**The** attack on an Algerian gas plant left more than thirty refinery workers dead.”

### Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	APRIL 5 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon and you're listening to Learning English with CBC for April 5 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	Ralph Klein is being remembered as a politician who led a conservative revolution in Canada and was so popular that many voters called him by his first name. Klein was Alberta's premier from 1992 to 2006. He was the mayor of Calgary from 1980 to 89. Klein died Friday at age 70 after fighting dementia, lung problems and pneumonia. Klein began his career in Calgary as a city hall reporter then became mayor. When he became premier in 1992, the province was deeply in debt. Klein began cutting jobs to bring the debt under control. It was not a popular move, but he stayed the course. The deficits turned into multibillion-dollar surpluses as oil prices went up. Klein is survived by his wife Colleen and five children. A celebration of Ralph Klein's life was held Friday in Calgary.	0:08
Story 2	Students at Mount Royal University say they are already feeling the impact of recent provincial budget cuts. The province announced a 7.3% cut in grants for post-secondary schools last month. Students at MRU say the fall schedule isn't available yet. It's being delayed until the University makes decisions are made about possible program cuts for September. Some prospective students say they have received letters saying the university isn't offering early admissions because of the uncertainty. Admissions for a bachelor of arts or an applied degree are going ahead. Advanced Education Minister, Thomas Lukaszuk is scheduled to meet with campus executives on April 11th to talk about the budget cut.	1:15
Story 3	The two Canadians who took part in that gas plant attack in Algeria spent time in Edmonton. Ali Medlej was 18 and Xristos Katsiroubas was 16 years old when they moved to the city in 2007. They weren't able to keep jobs, and were caught stealing groceries to feed themselves. They were evicted from their condo after trashing it. It's not known when they left Alberta. Katsiroubas and Medlej came from a middle-class neighbourhood in London, Ontario and were high school friends. The attack on an Algerian gas plant left more than thirty refinery workers dead.	2:04

## Answer keys

## News story 1

### Vocabulary

1. The current premier of Alberta is Alison Redford. The current mayor of Edmonton is Stephen Mandel. Both of these people are politicians who work for the government and represent the people.
2. Alberta has had a conservative government for over 40 years, since the PC party took control in the 1970's.
3. When the government has a deficit they often stop funding many programs to reduce the debt; but when there is a surplus they try to fund new programs.
4. Many university students are still deciding what career they would like to have in the future.
5. My grandmother died last month. She is survived by her husband, 5 children and 12 grandchildren.
6. People who smoke could suffer from lung cancer if they do not quit.

### Listening

1. What will Ralph Klein be remembered for? *He will be remembered as a politician who led a conservative revolution in Canada and was so popular that many voters called him Ralph.*
2. When was Ralph Klein the premier of Alberta? *From 1992 to 2006*
3. When and how did Ralph Klein die? *He died on Friday at the age of 70 after fighting dementia, lung problems and pneumonia.*
4. Before he was premier what jobs did Klein have? *He was the mayor of Calgary, and before that he was a city hall reporter.*
5. How did Klein get Alberta out of debt, when he first became premier? *He cut jobs.*
6. How did the province become rich during Klein's leadership? *Oil prices went up.*
7. Who is Ralph Klein survived by? *He is survived by his wife Colleen and five children.*

## News story 2

## Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
d	1) impact	a) bosses leaders directors
e	2) recent	b) slowed late overdue
f	3) announced	c) money funds dollars
c	4) grant	d) effect result outcome
g	5) schedule	e) just out latest new
b	6) delayed	f) said stated told
a	7) executives	g) timetable plan calendar

## Listening

1. T In March the Government said there would be a 7.3% cut in money given to universities and colleges.
2. F The fall schedule has been made available.
3. T Programs cuts may happen at Mount Royal University.
4. F No students are getting early admission letters.
5. T The Minister of Advanced Education is planning to meet with Mount Royal University bosses this week.

## News story 3

### Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
d	1. take part	a) to be kicked out of your rented apartment/house
f	2. plant	b) to take something without paying
i	3. groceries	c) a factory that processes raw materials
a	4. evicted	d) participate
h	5. attack	e) to destroy something or some place
b	6. stealing	f) factory
j	7. to be caught	g) not the rich, not the poor but the average people
e	8. trashing	h) an organized violent fight
g	9. middle class	i) food or other products sold in a supermarket

c	10. refinery	j) when someone (the police) see you doing something wrong
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### Listening

1. Two Canadians took part in _____.	a) an attack in Edmonton. b) the gas plant attack in Algeria.
2. The two boys, Ali Medlej and Xristos Katsiroubas, were teenagers when _____.	a) they attacked the gas plant. b) they moved to Edmonton in 2007.
3. In Edmonton the boys could not keep _____ and were caught _____.	a) jobs / stealing groceries b) food / trying to feed themselves
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5. Ali Medlej and Xristos Katsiroubas came from a _____ in London, Ontario.	a) middle-class neighbourhood b) friendly neighbourhood
6. The attack on the Algerian gas plant left _____ refinery workers dead.	a) about 13 b) more than 30